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**APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES
LETTERS PATENT**

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FOR: AN APPARATUS AND A METHOD FOR
COLLECTION OF A PROBLEM PART

DOCKET NO.: NEC2120-US

FOSTER TELETYPE

SPECIFICATION

An apparatus and a method for collection of a problem part

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus and a method for collection of a problem part. More particularly, it relates to an apparatus and a method for collection of a problem part, which enable efficient collection of a problem part when a design modification is made to a problem part in a design drawing by using a CAD system.

2. Related Art

In the past, collection of problem parts in a design of a product was performed manually. However, in the method of the prior art, there were the problems of missing an important modification information and not being able to collect and process data accurately.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention, in order to improve the drawbacks of the prior art as noted above, to provide a novel apparatus for collection problem part, a method therefor, which, when a designer makes a design modification, automatically detects a problem part and automatically collects a problem part, without human intervention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In order achieve the above-noted objects, the present invention adapts the following basic technical constitution.

A first aspect of an apparatus according to the present invention is a bug collection apparatus for use when a design modification is made to a bug in a drawing designed by using a computer aided design system, the apparatus comprising: a
5 first means for detecting whether the modification to the bug exceeds a pre-established criterion, and a second means for collecting and recording a bug information corresponding to the modification when the first means detecting that the modification exceeds the pre-established criterion.

10 In the second aspect of an apparatus according to the present invention, the first means and the second means are provided separately from one another, the bug collection apparatus further comprising a third means for sending the bug information from the first means to the second means.

15 A first aspect of a method of the present invention is a method for a bug collection for use when a design modification is made to a bug in a drawing designed by using a computer aided design system, the method comprising the steps of: detecting whether or not the modification to the
20 bug exceeds a pre-established criterion, and collecting a bug information corresponding to the modification when an information including the modification exceeding the pre-established criterion is detected in the detecting step.

A second aspect of a method of the present invention
25 is a method for a bug collection for use when a design modification is made to a bug in a drawing designed by using a computer aided design system, the method comprising the steps of: detecting whether or not the modification to the bug exceeds a pre-established criterion, sending a bug

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Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram showing the main parts of the present invention.

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Fig. 1 is block diagram showing the configuration of a problem part collection apparatus according to the present invention, Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram thereof, and Fig. 3 is a flowchart showing the operation of the present invention.

These drawings show a bug collection apparatus for use when a design modification is made to a problem part (hereinafter referred to as a bug) in a drawing designed by using a computer aided design system 1, the apparatus

comprising: a first means (detection means) 4 for detecting whether the modification to the bug exceeds a pre-established criterion, and a second means (collection means) 5 for collecting and recording a bug information corresponding to the modification when the first means 4 detecting that the above modification exceeds the pre-established criterion.

The detection means 4 and the collection means 5 are provided separately one another, and the bug information detected by the detection means 4 is sent to the collection means 5 from the detection means 4.

Additionally, these drawings show a method for a bug collection for use when a design modification is made to a bug in a drawing designed by using a computer aided design system 1, this method comprising the steps of: detecting whether or not the modification to the bug exceeds a pre-established criterion, and collecting a bug information corresponding to the modification when an information including the modification exceeding the pre-established criterion is detected in the detecting step.

The present invention is described in further detail below.

Referring to Fig. 1, in the case in which a design modification is performed by using a CAD system 1, the content of that modification is written into the modification information file 2. If this information includes modification that exceeds a pre-established criterion, this modification will be regarded as the modification corresponding to a bug, so that this bug information will be sent to a collecting means 5 by means of a mail transmission 3, so that the bug information

is collected to the collection means 5.

The present invention is described below in terms of the flowchart of Fig. 3.

Monitoring is performed to determine whether or not a
5 modification operation is made at a CAD system 1, and if such
a modification operation has been made (step S1), a judgment
is made as to whether or not this modification exceeds a
pre-established criterion (step S2). In this modification
operation, the criterion for regarding a bug is, for example,
10 in the case of a three-dimensional CAD system, the movement
distance generated by the modification exceeds a given value,
this criterion for bug detection being set beforehand. Then,
if a bug is detected, the details of the bug information (for
example, in the case of a three-dimensional CAD system, the
15 operating command, the movement distance generated by the
modification, or the operation time) are sent to the
collection apparatus (step S3), this bug information being
stored in a storage apparatus of the collection apparatus
(step S4).

20 The change information 2 includes character
information.

Additionally, it is possible to use any form of
communication means, such as FTP transfer, as the data
transfer means.

25 By adopting the configuration described in detail
above, the present invention can perform automatic collection
of design bug information. Furthermore, it features simple
configuration and is easily implemented.